



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

FWP needs your help! Please provide input on the 2008-2012 SCORP.

Introduction. In May 2003, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) completed the 2003-2007 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). How time flies! That SCORP is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

The new SCORP will be based on the 2003-2007 Montana SCORP, a document that represents a major undertaking. It cost over \$100,000 to produce, and was written with the involvement of FWP staff, a professional consulting firm, a SCORP advisory committee, various Montana parks and recreation professionals, a statewide televised public hearing, and input from citizens across the state of Montana. Fortunately, not much needs to be done to update the SCORP, and FWP plans to make only minor revisions to the 2003-2007 document.

Background. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 requires a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan from each State prior to consideration by the Secretary of the Interior for financial assistance under the stateside Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants program. This SCORP must be approved by the Governor and must contain his certification that ample opportunity for public participation has taken place. A total of ten copies of the plan must be submitted to the National Park Service (NPS), the agency that provides Federal oversight to the program. Every State should have a new or revised SCORP every five years.

Every SCORP should contain the following: the name of state agency with authority to represent the state in dealing with NPS; an evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources; a program for implementing the plan; certification by the Governor that ample opportunity for public participation has taken place in the plan development; relevant Federal resources and programs to be integrated with other state and regional plans; and any other necessary information as determined by the Secretary. In addition, the plan must contain a wetlands section consistent with Section 303 of Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986.

SCORP Revision Process. FWP has convened a SCORP Advisory Committee to help with the document review process. In late May, FWP provided the first rough draft of the new SCORP to the advisory committee. Several minor revisions were made. The final draft SCORP is now posted on this Internet website for public comment. After incorporating pertinent public comment into the new SCORP, the document will be ready for a final review by the SCORP Advisory Committee, probably in late August or early September. The National Park Service has asked FWP to submit a revised Montana SCORP by September 30, 2007.

SCORP Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with providing oversight during the SCORP revision process. Committee members will review the SCORP revisions and provide comments several times during the process. The committee includes the following persons.

Committee Members

Cathy Costakis	Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services
Lis Novak	United States Forest Service
Norma Nickerson	University of Montana
Carol Crockett	Montana Department of Commerce (Travel Montana)
Rick Harbin	Colstrip Park & Recreation District
Christine Kaufmann	Montana State Senate

FWP Advisors

Walter Timmerman	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Sue Dalbey	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Public Input. FWP encourages all Montana citizens to stay active and engaged in the planning processes for their local outdoor recreational facilities. Recreation facility managers often look to the Montana SCORP for guidance, so public input on the new SCORP is important. The SCORP Public Comment Period opens July 9, 2007, and closes at 5:00 p.m., August 17, 2007. To comment, simply write a letter or note containing your observations to the following address:

SCORP Revision
Walter W. Timmerman
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

You can also call Walt Timmerman, FWP Recreation Bureau Chief, at 406-444-3753; send an email (wimmerman@mt.gov); or FAX your comments to 406-444-4952. When sending a message by FAX, please be sure to include a cover sheet.

Thanks for your help!